

2 **SSB 5999** - S AMD 054

3 By Senators Hochstatter, West, Honeyford, Finkbeiner, Hewitt,  
4 Swecker, Stevens, McDonald, Morton, Horn and Shin

5 NOT ADOPTED 03/12/01

6 On page 1, after line 18, insert the following:

7 "Sec. 2. RCW 80.36.430 and 1990 c 170 s 3 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 The Washington telephone assistance program shall be funded by a  
10 telephone assistance excise tax on all switched access lines and by  
11 funds from any federal government or other programs for this purpose.  
12 Switched access lines are defined in RCW 82.14B.020. The telephone  
13 assistance excise tax shall be applied equally to all residential and  
14 business access lines not to exceed fourteen cents per month. Upon the  
15 effective date of this act, the telephone assistance excise tax  
16 applied to affected access lines shall be reduced by two cents per  
17 month until such time as the revenues generated for the purposes of  
18 this act are not more than one million dollars above the costs of the  
19 Washington telephone assistance program. The telephone assistance  
20 excise tax shall be separately identified on each ratepayer's bill as  
21 the "Washington telephone assistance program." All money collected  
22 from the telephone assistance excise tax shall be transferred to a  
23 telephone assistance fund administered by the department. Local  
24 exchange companies shall bill the fund for their expenses incurred in  
25 offering the telephone assistance program, including administrative and  
26 program expenses. The department shall disburse the money to the local  
27 exchange companies. The department is exempted from having to conclude  
28 a contract with local exchange companies in order to effect this  
29 reimbursement. The department shall recover its administrative costs  
30 from the fund. The department may specify by rule the range and extent  
31 of administrative and program expenses that will be reimbursed to local  
32 exchange companies.

33 Renumber the sections consecutively and correct any internal  
34 references accordingly.

